

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced Friday that the House Appropriations Committee voted on \$1 million for an Emergency Operations Center in Maverick County.

The center, which will be located north of Eagle Pass, will serve communities in the nine counties of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde and Zavala. Maverick County has already donated land for the purpose.

“When disasters strike, rapid response can save lives, prevent injuries and get people to safe places quickly,” said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez. “This center will give authorities throughout the region the resources they need to respond and help those in need.”

Maverick County officials said this type of emergency operations center has been needed in the region for some time. When deadly tornadoes hit the Eagle Pass area in 2007, killing seven people and another three in neighboring Piedras Negras, officials had to quickly mobilize and turn the local convention center into an emergency operations headquarters.

“It worked fine, but it’s really not equipped for that sort of thing,” said Maverick County Judge Jose “Pepe” Aranda. Having a dedicated center will allow officials to save time and hit the ground running when a disaster strikes.

“We are very grateful for the Congressman’s leadership,” Judge Aranda said. “He knows and understands the importance of a center like this in a rural area like ours. This will help us have a state-of-the art system and eventually train people for future emergencies.”

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Rodriguez has proven his commitment to public safety and law enforcement in the 23rd Congressional District. In FY09 he secured \$500,000 in funding for law enforcement interoperability equipment for the region and \$658,000 in FY08 for a border safety training complex on the grounds where the new emergency operations center will be located.

###